



Written Testimony of Anthony L. Johnson

on

Senate Bill No. 105

### AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RIGHT TO HOUSING

Representative McGee, Senator Anwar, Representative Zullo, Senator Hwang and the distinguished members of the Housing Committee, my name is Anthony Johnson, and I have worked in commercial, residential, public and affordable housing for the past 30 years as a manager, developer and owner.

My experience includes working at the Chicago Housing Authority where my portfolio included nine public housing developments that underwent Hope VI conversion and I worked at a firm that created 500 units of affordable housing utilizing the tax credit program. I am currently the Executive Director of the Greenwich Housing Authority which provides approximately 1200 units of housing through the State of Connecticut Moderate Income Program, Public Housing, Section 8, Multifamily, scattered sites and operation of an Assisted Living facility. I am also the Chair of the CONN-NAHRO Housing and Legislation Committee.

CONN-NAHRO understands and supports the need to provide and protect a right to housing with the stated goal of preventing residents from entering into a situation of homelessness by providing assistance and supportive services in concept, but cannot support SB No. 105 as written for the following reasons:

1. There is no way to determine the contours of this right, which is left to the regulatory process.
2. There appears to be no funding that will attach to this bill.
3. The bill provides no measurement to evaluate the impact of this bill on housing authorities.
4. SB No. 105 could/would increase the demand on housing authorities' resources that are already overburdened.
5. The stated goals of SB No. 105 are currently covered under existing laws.
6. The federal government does not currently recognize a right to housing.

CONN-NAHRO would be pleased to work with all parties to improve the structure, financing and success measurements of SB No. 105.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anthony L. Johnson, Executive Director of the Greenwich Housing Authority, SVP of Housing and Legislation Committee, Conn-NAHRO.*